2007–2008

Saskatchewan

Provincial Budget

Performance Plan

First Nations and Métis Relations

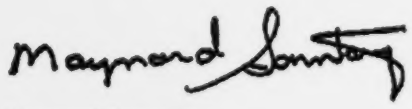
Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the 2007-08 Performance Plan for the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations. This is the second public performance plan of this Department.

Our Department works with First Nations and Métis leaders to support the full and equitable participation of First Nations and Métis people in the Province's social and economic life. The ongoing development of policy to ensure that the Government has a consistent and responsive approach to First Nations and Métis issues, will further build on the relations that exist with First Nations and Métis people. Through new initiatives such as building consultation capacity, and continuing existing programs like the Aboriginal Employment Development Program and the First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program, we are working with First Nations and Métis people to ensure that the Province's economy remains strong into the future.

The majority of the Department's 2007-08 budget is to administer and honour previous commitments made by the Government. The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act and the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement will continue to provide funding to support social and economic development for First Nations and Métis people through the First Nations Trust, Community Development Corporations, and Métis Development Fund. Our administration of the Treaty Land Entitlement settlement agreements will continue the transfer of lands, on a willing seller-willing buyer basis, to First Nations.

We commit to complete the actions outlined in the plan and look forward to reporting back with our progress in July 2008.



Maynard Sonntag
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

Who We Are

The First Nations and Métis Relations' (FNMR) mandate is to work with First Nations and Métis people and other orders of government to advance common interests and to improve social and economic outcomes of Aboriginal people. The Department provides leadership within the provincial government to ensure First Nations and Métis priorities and issues are reflected in the development, co-ordination and implementation of government policies and programs. The Department also ensures the Province's obligations with respect to Treaty Land Entitlements; gaming funding to the First Nations Trust; Community Development Corporations; and the Métis Development Fund are fulfilled.

With the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR), the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the important contributions First Nations and Métis people make to our province and the need to build relationships and opportunities that will benefit all Saskatchewan people. The Department works with First Nations and Métis people, communities, organizations and other departments to develop and implement policies and programs that advance shared interests and increase the participation of First Nations and Métis people in the social and economic life of Saskatchewan. To build and manage new relationships, the Department must also work to increase awareness and understanding of the mutual interdependence all residents share by bringing First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginal communities closer together through effective communications and public education.

The Department is located in Regina and employs 44 full time equivalent positions. The Department's activities may be summarized into four key areas that are focused on achieving FNMR's goals and objectives. A brief description of each of these areas is outlined below.

FNMR provides leadership to numerous Government departments involved in direct program and service delivery relationships with Aboriginal organizations by ensuring these departments have a sound understanding of Aboriginal issues and perspectives, as well as provincial policy positions and jurisdictional matters. In turn, FNMR works to ensure that the Province's policy positions on key issues are effectively and constructively presented to First Nations and Métis people and organizations through its function as a main window through which First Nations and Métis people liaise with the Province.

FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS POLICY ISSUES

FNMR continues to be responsible for ongoing work to advance the government's agenda with respect to self-government interests. This includes protecting provincial interests in self-government discussions involving the Meadow Lake First Nations and Canada. FNMR also works with Métis communities, organizations and individuals to examine issues of mutual concern,

including the Métis Aboriginal right to hunt and fish identified in a 2003 Supreme Court of Canada decision.

Supreme Court decisions have outlined the Province's legal duty to consult Aboriginal people on matters that could infringe on existing Treaty and Aboriginal rights. FNMR, in co-ordination with other departments released guidelines for consultation in 2006-07 entitled: *Guidelines for Consultation with First Nations and Métis People: A Guide for Decision Makers.* FNMR works with departments, industry and Aboriginal people to meet expectations related to its legal duty and to explore the benefit of consultation in other areas that affect the lives of Aboriginal people.

ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

Through the Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP), FNMR will continue to work towards increasing Aboriginal employment and training opportunities through partnerships involving Aboriginal organizations, unions, public and private sector employers and educational institutions. The Department will continue to develop new initiatives and partnerships under the AEDP as well as new directions with a focus on education, training and career paths for Aboriginal youth.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department manages the Province's obligations and interests under the First Nations Gaming Agreement and *Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act.* This program helps to build social and economic development opportunities that are a benefit to the entire Province. As part of this process, FNMR works with the First Nations Trust and Community Development Corporations to establish and maintain standard accountability reporting systems.

As well, the Department administers the First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program which supports the creation and expansion of business ventures in Saskatchewan. This initiative is not only expanding and diversifying the Province's economy, but creating new jobs for Saskatchewan's growing First Nations and Métis population.

TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT

FNMR administers Saskatchewan's legal obligations pursuant to the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement Agreements signed with the federal government and First Nations. FNMR's oversight of the TLE process includes co-ordinating provincial reviews and facilitating the resolution of issues identified in lands selected by Entitlement First Nations for the transfer to reserve status. The TLE Agreements ensure that the interests of all people of Saskatchewan are protected in the Treaty land entitlement process. One example of this is the stipulation that all land sales must be made on a "willing seller, willing buyer" basis. Treaty land entitlement leads to greater economic and social independence for First Nations and provides economic development opportunities for all members of the Province.

Plan at a Glance

This is the second Performance Plan for First Nations and Métis Relations since the Department was created on October 1, 2004. This plan is intended to be flexible and adaptive in nature and will evolve over time in response to the changing environment in which the Department operates.

A summary of the Department's Performance Plan for 2007-08 and beyond is provided below. The goals and objectives articulate the long-term outcomes the Department is pursuing in support of its vision. The key actions focus on the specific activities that will be completed in 2007-08 to support the objectives. In addition, a set of performance measures has been developed that will be used to gauge progress in achieving the objectives. The core principles within the plan are partnership, leadership, innovation and communication.

The Department will report on the actual results as compared to the key actions outlined in this plan in its 2007-08 Annual Report, which will be released in July 2008.

VISION

First Nations and Métis people are full partners in society, contributing to and sharing in the prosperity of our Province. All members of society live in mutual respect and harmony.

GOAL 1

First Nations and Métis peoples are full participants in the social, cultural and economic life of the Province

OBJECTIVE 1 *– Increase the participation of First Nations and Métis peoples in the Province's workforce and economy*

Performance Measures

- Number of partnership agreements under the AEDP
- Number of Aboriginal people employed by AEDP partnership employer organizations
- Number of Aboriginal people who receive work-based training in partnership employer organizations
- Number of First Nations and Métis businesses supported/expanded through partial funding from the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program

OBJECTIVE 2 – *Government understands First Nations and Métis peoples' views with respect to their basic rights and needs, and these views are taken into consideration as government policy is reviewed and developed*

Performance Measure

- **Progress on developing a broad Aboriginal consultation policy framework**

OBJECTIVE 3 – *First Nation and Métis leaders, governments, organizations and communities have knowledge and understanding of government policies, programs and services*

Performance Measures

- **Under Development**

OBJECTIVE 4 – *The general public is better informed of the contribution First Nations and Métis peoples make to this Province and of the interdependence of our various communities*

Performance Measure

- **Number of people receiving Aboriginal Cultural Awareness education in AEDP partnership employer organizations**

GOAL 2

There are effective relations and communications between the Province and First Nations and Métis peoples and governments, and a shared commitment to address First Nations and Métis rights and obligations

OBJECTIVE 1 – *First Nations' land issues are resolved for the mutual benefit of First Nations Peoples and the Province*

Performance Measures

- **Number of Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements signed**
- **Number of acres attaining reserve status under Treaty Land Entitlement**
- **Number of First Nations achieving shortfall acres**

OBJECTIVE 2 – *First Nations' aspirations for self-government are addressed for the mutual benefit of all Saskatchewan people*

Performance Measure

- **Progress on draft First Nation governance agreements between Meadow Lake First Nations, the federal government and the provincial government**

OBJECTIVE 3 *– Rights and issues important to Métis people are recognized*

Performance Measure

- **Establishment of a new productive working relationship with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan**

OBJECTIVE 4 *– FNMR leadership in developing and co-ordinating government policy and action with appropriate involvement of departments in resolving issues that are important to First Nations and Métis peoples and the Province as a whole*

Performance Measure

- **Progress on disseminating information from *The Government of Saskatchewan Guidelines for Consultation with First Nations and Métis People: A Guide for Decision-Makers***

2007-08 Financial Overview

The Department of First Nations and Métis Relations will again invest over $50 million in 2007-08 on specific First Nations and Métis programs and issues. The majority of this will be to satisfy the Government's commitments and legal obligations.

2007-08 ESTIMATES	*(in thousands of dollars)*	
Central Management Services	$	1,997
Policy Co-ordination and Support for Aboriginal Organizations		8,155
Gaming Agreements		36,882
Treaty Land Entitlement		4,660
Total Appropriation	$	51,694
REVENUES	$	0
Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff Complement		44.0

Transfers to third parties for 2007-08 are budgeted as follows:

- $2.0 million in new funding to assist First Nations and Métis to build consultation capacity.
- First Nations Trust, Community Development Corporations, and the Métis Development Fund (Clarence Campeau Development Fund) to satisfy the Province's obligations under the *Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement – $36.9 million.
- To First Nations to satisfy the Province's obligations under specific Treaty Land Entitlement settlement agreements – $4.7 million.
- To various third party organizations and individuals for the First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program – $1.5 million.
- To various partner agencies to support Aboriginal employment opportunities and initiatives – $0.8 million.
- To various organizations to support Aboriginal Governance and Cultural initiatives – $0.9 million.

Trends and Issues

First Nations and Métis Relations works in an environment based on relationships with governments, First Nations and Métis organizations and communities. These relationships provide opportunities to further Saskatchewan's interests in the social, economic and cultural arenas. We are responsible for administering a variety of agreements, strategies and programs within a continually changing environment. This section outlines some of the key external issues we face. Our strategic plan includes key actions that outline how we will address these issues and performance measures to evaluate our progress.

NATIONAL

The change in federal leadership has forced the Province to respond to a different set of federal objectives and directions. Over the past year the Province has had to shift its focus away from building a national agenda on Aboriginal issues toward more local and provincial responses to Aboriginal issues. Engaging the federal government on issues of provincial concern will continue to be a challenge.

Work between the provinces/territories, federal government and national Aboriginal organizations has shaped much of the dialogue and work on Aboriginal policy issues for the past two years. The Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable on Strengthening the Relationship, the sectoral sessions on specific issues and the federal/provincial/territorial policy retreat in Kelowna in November 2005 resulted in an agreement to address the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada. These events have raised expectations amongst Aboriginal organizations at the national and provincial/territorial levels. Not only did they give rise in the national media to a higher profile for Aboriginal issues, they resulted in the signing of political accords that outlined new ways of working and the promise of real change in the lives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people throughout Canada.

The investment of time and resources into these federal processes was significant for national Aboriginal organizations (NAO), provinces and territories. Although the agreement reached between NAOs, provinces, territories and the federal government lapsed following the 2006 federal election, the desire to continue in this direction remains for many jurisdictions and organizations and is still the basis for many discussions and relationships focused on addressing the socio-economic disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The Province will continue working with the federal government, Aboriginal organizations and other jurisdictions to address the socio-economic gap and to ensure Saskatchewan's interests are understood and the needs of Saskatchewan's residents are met.

PROVINCIAL

The growing First Nations and Métis population and continuing gaps in employment, education, health and social well being present the Government with many challenges. There are real opportunities for FNMR and all departments to work with First Nations and Métis communities to support capacity development and secure meaningful change in the lives of Aboriginal people. Aboriginal issues require broad-based government strategies and partnerships to address the challenges and opportunities in a timely and constructive way.

Educational and job opportunities for Aboriginal people entering the labour market are imperative, for both social and economic reasons. In the absence of such opportunities, Aboriginal peoples' involvement in the criminal justice system as victims or offenders will likely continue, and Aboriginal over-representation could increase.

The duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples on developments that may infringe on Treaty and Aboriginal rights is another issue that is having a direct impact on provincial departments. FNMR is working with all departments to develop policy on consultation. Involving First Nations and Métis people in broader program and policy decisions is more likely to result in the achievement of better social outcomes for First Nations and Métis people which in turn would benefit the entire Province.

A new Chief was elected to lead the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) in October 2006. The Department will work with the new FSIN administration to strengthen our relationship and find new avenues for partnership and collaboration.

Following an unreliable 2004 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS) election, the Province suspended funding to the MNS and the federal government followed suit shortly thereafter. In 2005, a panel of prominent Métis citizens in Saskatchewan recommended a new MNS election. Saskatchewan will continue to encourage an accountable, democratic Métis electoral process and support other Métis institutions and communities in Saskatchewan.

Supreme Court and Provincial Court decisions regarding Métis rights will continue to have direct implications on Saskatchewan hunting and fishing policies and future implications in a wide variety of areas where Aboriginal rights may apply. FNMR will continue to work with other government departments to ensure provincial policy reflects evolving legal decisions.

The perception of racial intolerance and the need for a better-informed general public continues to be a concern in Saskatchewan. It is important to ensure the public has an accurate understanding of the historic and contemporary context of the issues.

Progress is being made with respect to negotiating an on-reserve self-government agreement involving Meadow Lake First Nations, Canada and the Province. In addition to on-reserve issues, the parties are addressing off-reserve matters, specifically development of draft framing agreements to deal with traditional territories and with non-resident citizens. While progress is being made, these are complex issues that take time to resolve.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), through the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC), are exploring a Treaty-based as opposed to a policy-based approach in responding to governance and other issues of significance to First Nations people.

Under the leadership of the Departments of Justice and Corrections and Public Safety, the government continues to respond to the recommendations of the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform through the development of an Action Plan, *Creating a Healthy, Just, Prosperous and Safe Saskatchewan.* There is considerable overlap in responding to the Justice Commission recommendations and developing policy approaches in government: both require departments to work collaboratively as issues relating to Aboriginal people affect a range of government departments and require their input; and both implicitly require that departments come to some agreement about how they will build respectful, positive working relationships with Aboriginal communities to ensure that the views and interests of Aboriginal people and communities are reflected in policy development.

Changes from 2006-07 Performance Plan

For the most part, FNMR's 2007-08 Performance Plan remains the same as it was for 2006-07. The following are the specific changes:

- Goal 2 – Objective 4 was rewritten to clarify FNMR's leadership role in developing and co-ordinating government policy with respect to First Nations and Métis people in the Province.
- New performance measures were developed under Goal 1 – Objective 2, Goal 2 – Objectives 3 and 4. In 2006-07, these performance measures were "Under development."
- Trendline information is provided for performance measures for the first time in the 2007-08 Performance Plan.

Goals, Objectives, Actions and Measures

This section contains the Department's detailed 2007-08 Performance Plan which supports First Nations and Métis people becoming full partners in society, contributing to and sharing in the prosperity of our province.

Under each goal, a number of objectives have been established that support progress towards the broader goal statement. For each objective, a set of key actions that will be completed in 2007-08 has been identified. These actions are the means for making progress on the objectives. In addition, performance measures have been established to gauge progress towards meeting the objectives.

GOAL 1

First Nations and Métis peoples are full participants in the social, cultural and economic life of the Province

OBJECTIVE 1 *– Increase the participation of First Nations and Métis peoples in the Province's workforce and economy*

The growing First Nations and Métis population is facing poor employment, education, and health outcomes, as well as high rates of involvement in the criminal justice system and children in care. This growing population offers Saskatchewan one of its greatest opportunities to meet future workforce demands and to expand the tax base. Integrating First Nations and Métis people into the mainstream economic structure is consistent with government's desire to ensure no one is left behind on the road to opportunity and will lead to better social and economic outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

Specifically, this objective speaks directly to the Department's Aboriginal Employment Development Program and the First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program. The employment development program builds partnerships and lines of communication between employers, training institutions and Aboriginal people. The economic development program promotes new business development and business expansion in Saskatchewan's key economic sectors, in partnership with Saskatchewan's major Aboriginal funding institutions.

Key Actions for 2007-08

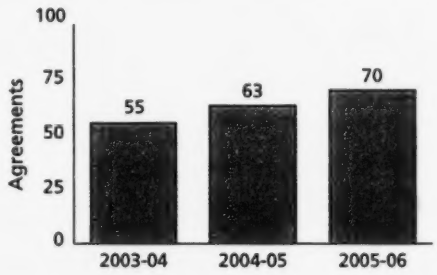
- Implement the Representative Workforce Strategy under the Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP).
- Through the AEDP, support the Provincial Aboriginal Representative Workforce Council (PARWC) to develop mechanisms for First Nations and Métis labour force attachment.

- Monitor and manage the Province's obligations under the First Nations Gaming Agreement with respect to the First Nations Trust and Community Development Corporations (CDC).
- Monitor and manage the Province's obligations under the *Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and the agreement between the Province and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan with respect to the Métis Development Fund (Clarence Campeau Development Fund).
- Continue to administer the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program.
- Use the outcomes from the First Nations and Métis Economic Development symposium in January 2007, to develop further policy and programs to stimulate aboriginal involvement in the economy.

What are we measuring?

Number of partnership agreements under the AEDP

Progress to date



(Numbers are cumulative)

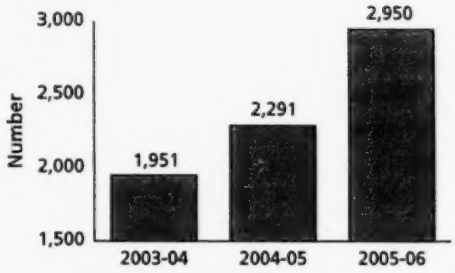
Given the current and projected demographics of the province, it is imperative that Aboriginal people are engaged in the provincial workforce in numbers, and at levels, proportionate to the numbers of Aboriginal people in the general population – the definition of a representative workforce.

Increased numbers of partnership agreements depends on the level of promotion of the program and provincial employer interest in the program. Success of individual partnership agreements, in terms of recruitment, retention and advancement of Aboriginal employees depends upon the will and resources of the partner organization.

What are we measuring?

Number of Aboriginal people employed by AEDP partnership employer organizations

Progress to date



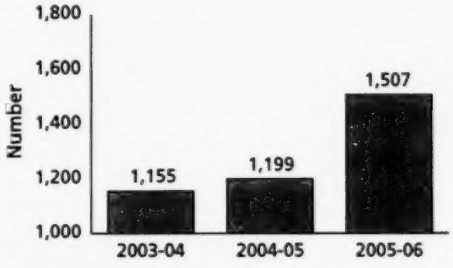
(Numbers are cumulative)

This measure indicates the actual number of Aboriginal people employed at a given point in time. The AEDP does not employ people. Through the voluntary partnerships with employers, the program influences the hiring and workplace practices of partners and communicates opportunities to Aboriginal people and organizations. The Department has limited control over the actual hiring.

What are we measuring?

Number of Aboriginal people who receive work-based training in partnership employer organizations

Progress to date



(Numbers are cumulative)

Given the current and projected demographics of the province, it is imperative that Aboriginal people are engaged in the provincial workforce in numbers, and at levels, proportionate to the numbers of Aboriginal people in the general population – the definition of a representative workforce.

Training in the workplace helps ensure retention and advancement, as well as transferable skills. Increasing the number of work-based training recipients depends on the partner organization's ability to offer training.

What are we measuring?

Number of First Nations and Métis businesses supported/expanded through partial funding from the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program

Progress to date

The program became fully operational in February of 2006. As of January 2007, 52 applications have been approved for grants totalling $1,156,190.

This measure will track the number of businesses supported through the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program and those businesses that expand their operations after being supported by this program. Although this is a specific Government program, to provide a portion of the overall financing, there are external factors (e.g., availability of other financing, sound business plans, business management skills, etc) that will have a significant influence on the creation of more First Nations and Métis businesses in Saskatchewan. This program does not provide 100 per cent of the funding for a business opportunity, and so it helps to leverage additional financing from external sources (e.g., Financial institutions and private investors).

OBJECTIVE 2 – Government understands First Nations and Métis peoples' views with respect to their basic rights and needs, and these views are taken into consideration as government policy is reviewed and developed

Ensuring equitable outcomes for First Nations and Métis peoples requires government to understand the many complex issues and concerns of Aboriginal people. This involves supporting First Nations and Métis organizations in their efforts to voice positions and concerns to departments, agencies and Crown corporations.

Key Actions for 2007-08

- Provide support to provincial, regional and community-level First Nations and Métis organizations so that they have the capacity to co-operate and consult with government on policies, programs and plans that impact their interests and rights.
- Ensure government communicates and consults with First Nations and Métis peoples on an ongoing basis to understand their goals, positions and concerns.
- Develop a new relationship with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations that will establish new mechanisms for ongoing communications and consultation and address mutual priorities to close the socio-economic gap between First Nations and non-Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan.
- Develop a consultation policy framework that allows for enhanced communication and consultation and more productive relationships between government and First Nations and Métis.

What are we measuring?	Progress to date
Progress on developing a broad Aboriginal consultation policy framework	The Government does not currently have a consultation policy framework to consistently involve First Nations and Métis interests in public policy and program development

OBJECTIVE 3 – First Nation and Métis leaders, governments, organizations and communities have knowledge and understanding of government policies, programs and services

Communication to First Nations and Métis organizations of Government policies and programs is a critical component in establishing and maintaining solid working relationships. Well established relationships make it easier for the Province to move forward in the future to address the issues and opportunities that exist for Saskatchewan.

Key Actions for 2007-08

- Provide information and material on government policies, programs and services to First Nations and Métis people.
- Continue to communicate government policies, mandates and programs in interactions and negotiations with First Nation and Métis groups.
- Publish and distribute a newsletter outlining the activities and accomplishments of FNMR and other government departments.

What are we measuring?	Progress to date
Under development	Under development

OBJECTIVE 4 – The general public is better informed of the contribution First Nations and Métis peoples make to this Province and of the interdependence of our various communities

In order to facilitate a harmonious relationship among all Saskatchewan people, it is necessary to ensure that cultural diversity is understood and supported. FNMR specifically focuses on supporting the cultural diversity that exists in the First Nations and Métis community, so that their culture is understood and accepted and is not a barrier to integration in the province's economy and society.

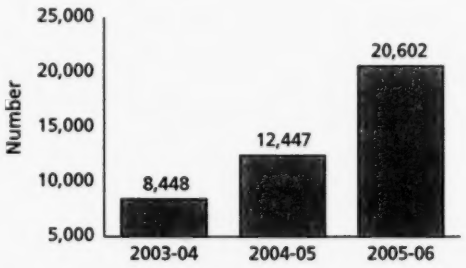
Key Actions for 2007-08

- In collaboration with Saskatchewan Justice and other government departments, develop and implement a strategy to address racism in Saskatchewan.
- Promote and support Aboriginal cultural awareness education in Saskatchewan workplaces.
- Work with First Nations and Métis individuals and organizations to facilitate the development of a directory of Aboriginal awareness training in response to a recommendation of the Justice Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform.
- Publish and distribute a newsletter outlining the activities and accomplishments of FNMR and other government departments (this key action is also applicable to Goal 1, Objective 3).

What are we measuring?

Number of people receiving Aboriginal Cultural Awareness education in AEDP partnership employer organizations

Progress to date



(Numbers are cumulative)

Given the current and projected demographics of the province, it is imperative that Aboriginal people are engaged in the provincial workforce in numbers, and at levels, proportionate to the numbers of Aboriginal people in the general population – the definition of a representative workforce. An important component of workplace preparation involves dispelling myths and misconceptions about Aboriginal people to ensure a welcoming, respectful environment. This is achieved through Aboriginal cultural awareness education.

Increasing the number of individuals receiving cultural awareness education depends on the partner organization's ability to offer the education.

GOAL 2

There are effective relations and communications between the Province and First Nations and Métis peoples and governments, and a shared commitment to address First Nations and Métis rights and obligations

***OBJECTIVE 1** – First Nations' land issues are resolved for the mutual benefit of First Nations Peoples and the Province*

The Province of Saskatchewan has specific legal and constitutional obligations to First Nations people. The Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process exists because First Nations did not, in all instances, receive the land that was promised to them in the Treaties. Under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (1930), Saskatchewan has a legal obligation to provide land so that Canada can fulfill these promises. Saskatchewan is committed to honouring its constitutional obligations to Canada by negotiating and implementing agreements to resolve long outstanding First Nations' claims through the 1992 TLE Framework Agreement and Settlement Agreements.

Key Actions for 2007-08

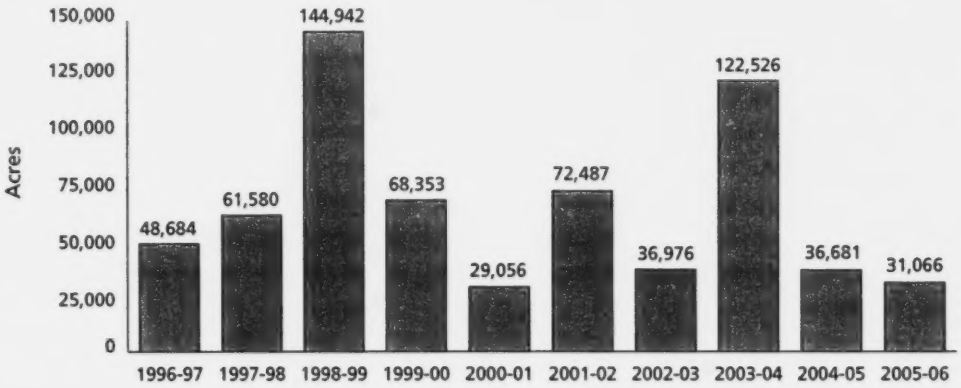
- Co-ordinate the implementation of the Province's obligations arising from the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreements.
- Negotiate new Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements as necessary.
- Co-ordinate the implementation of the Province's obligations arising from the Memorandum of Agreement Facilitation of the implementation of specific claims settlements.
- Co-ordinate the Province's obligations under the Amended Cost-Share Agreement.

What are we measuring?	**Progress to date**
Number of Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements signed	29 *[March 2006]*

This performance measure fulfils the terms of the TLE Settlement Agreements. As reserves increase in size, First Nations have more opportunities to initiate economic development projects, which lead to increased economic viability for First Nations members.

What are we measuring?	Progress to date
Number of acres attaining reserve status under Treaty Land Entitlement	See the following graph

NUMBER OF ACRES ATTAINING RESERVE STATUS UNDER TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT



The number of acres attaining reserve status is dependent on individual First Nation selection of lands.

What are we measuring?	Progress to date
Number of First Nations achieving shortfall acres	21 *[March 2006]*

The TLE process exists because First Nations did not, in all instances, receive the land that was promised to them in the Treaties.

Under the terms of the *Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement* and TLE Settlements, First Nations must acquire and transfer to Reserve status the amount of land they should have received (shortfall acres) if all First Nations people were counted at the time of original survey.

OBJECTIVE 2 – *First Nations' aspirations for self-government are addressed for the mutual benefit of all Saskatchewan people*

The Province recognizes the inherent right to self-government for First Nations people. Saskatchewan is involved in negotiating a self-government agreement with the Meadow Lake First Nations and the Government of Canada, and is an active observer of the discussions involving the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation to explore governance models.

Key Actions for 2007-08

- Negotiate an on-reserve self-government agreement with Meadow Lake First Nations (MLFN) and the Government of Canada for the mutual benefit of all Saskatchewan people.
- Continue to negotiate a draft framework agreement respecting traditional territories and a draft framework agreement respecting non-resident citizens between MLFN and Canada.

What are we measuring?

Progress on draft First Nation governance agreements between Meadow Lake First Nations (MLFN), the federal government and the provincial government

Progress to date

Canada, Saskatchewan and seven Meadow Lake First Nations in the Meadow Lake area signed the Meadow Lake Tribal Council self-government Agreements-in-Principle that formally committed Saskatchewan to enter the second phase of negotiations leading to final agreements for on-reserve self-government.
[January 2001]

Self-government is a vehicle to improve the quality of life and opportunities available to the First Nations, through processes controlled by, and accountable to, First Nations people. While the primary relationship in the self-government negotiations is between the Meadow Lake First Nations and the federal government, Saskatchewan's involvement at the negotiating table protects provincial interests and ensures that any arrangements reached with respect to on-reserve self-government are compatible with provincial laws and practices.

Negotiations on the agreements respecting traditional territories and non-resident citizens are essential components that constitute the overall self-government negotiation process.

The level of success in reaching these targets is also dependent on Canada and MLFN commitment to the process.

OBJECTIVE 3 – Rights and issues important to Métis people are recognized

Governance concepts and issues of mutual concern, such as recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions on Métis rights and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan electoral reform, are recognized. The Province undertakes initiatives to address these concerns with Métis people and communities.

The level of success depends on the commitment and capacity of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS) and the Métis people to the process.

Key Actions for 2007-08

- Facilitate processes leading up to and holding a fair and democratic Métis election.
- Renew relationships with a fair and democratically elected Métis executive.

What are we measuring?	Progress to date
Establishment of a new productive working relationship with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan	In 2004, after the MNS election was held and the Province became aware of the serious irregularities that occurred in that election, relations with and funding for the MNS were suspended. Until such time as a fair and democratic election is held, these suspensions will remain.

OBJECTIVE 4 – FNMR leadership in developing and co-ordinating government policy and action with appropriate involvement of departments in resolving issues that are important to First Nations and Métis peoples and the Province as a whole

FNMR provides leadership to the numerous departments involved in program and service delivery relationships with Aboriginal organizations by ensuring departments have a reliable understanding of Aboriginal issues and perspectives and that corporately there are sound provincial policy positions on First Nation and Métis issues. Just as First Nations and Métis people utilize all government services, all government departments must be part of integrated responses to what are often complex problems. FNMR provides leadership by providing policy expertise and co-ordination of departments in policy development, maintaining provincial-level relationships with Aboriginal organizations, and promoting the development of direct relationships between departments and First Nations and Métis people on specific policy issues.

Key Actions for 2007-08

- Develop First Nations and Métis policy and processes in co-operation with Executive Council and other government departments and Crown corporations as required.
- Develop a First Nations and Métis policy framework for the Government of Saskatchewan.
- Co-ordinate the implementation across government of *The Government of Saskatchewan Guidelines for Consultation with First Nations and Métis People: A Guide for Decision-Makers.*
- Co-ordinate and support provincial departments' First Nations and Métis capacity development efforts.
- Work with the federal government, other provincial and territorial governments and national Aboriginal organizations through intergovernmental processes.

- Undertake co-operative initiatives with the federal government to address the needs of off-reserve First Nations people and Métis people.
- Provide advice and input into the development of other departments' policy initiatives that impact First Nations and Métis people.

What are we measuring?

Progress on disseminating information from the *Government of Saskatchewan Guidelines for Consultation with First Nations and Métis People: A Guide for Decision-makers*

Progress to date

The Guidelines were distributed to government departments, First Nations and Métis organizations and stakeholders in June 2006. FNMR will take the lead to co-ordinate government implementation of the Guidelines so there is a consistent approach when consulting with First Nations and Métis people.

For More Information

Additional information about FNMR is available on the Department's website, viewable on the Internet at www/fnmr.gov.sk.ca.

The website includes both general and more detailed information about the department, its programs and services, and legislation for which the department is responsible.

For further information about First Nations and Métis Relations or to provide feedback about the Department's 2007-08 Performance Plan, please contact us:

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